

PAINT: *Don't Trash it ... Use it up!*

With spring on its way, people naturally start thinking of home improvement. Paint is an easy way to make a home or building look new again. In this issue of *Wastelines* you will find several pollution prevention articles relating to paint and its disposal.

Why is paint such an important topic? Paint is a major component of the waste stream and comprises up to 60 percent of the waste collected at household hazardous waste (HHW) collections in New Hampshire. The burden on local governments to collect and manage waste paint is increasing in volume, cost and demand for services.

To address this issue, the DES Household Hazardous Waste Program has been working on a consumer outreach and education project that will help to reduce the amount of waste paint before it is generated. A pilot project was launched last summer that partners DES with local paint retail stores to help educate consumers when they first purchase paint. A clever and inexpensive educational tool was created and distributed through the stores: paint stirrers with the reminder "Don't trash it ... use it up!" The sticks also are imprinted with a website address and phone number for more information on the proper use, management and disposal of paint. The project will be expanded this spring.

Look for information where you purchase paint. Don't be afraid to ask your dealer for

recycled paint and washable paint stirrers. Let stores know what you want as an environmentally-minded consumer; store owners look for ways to meet consumers' needs.

For a copy of the program's brochure, go to www.des.state.nh.us/hhw/PaintTipBrochure.pdf, or go to www.des.state.nh.us/HHW/ for more about the Household Hazardous Waste program in New Hampshire.



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Getting the Lead Out

How to Dispose of Lead Bearing Paint

Lead bearing paint (LBP) waste is toxic and needs to be properly disposed of. The proper method of disposal, however, depends on whether the paint waste is generated at a home or other residence as a part of routine maintenance, or generated at commercial and non-residential public buildings.

Residences

Lead bearing paint waste is often generated at residences when performing routine maintenance, during remodeling and construction. Although residential LBP waste is excluded from regulation under the *Hazardous Waste Rules*, DES urges homeowners and contractors to use best management practices (BMPs) when handling the waste. Some of these practices include collecting all waste chips in a plastic bag until disposal, storing larger items (doors, windows, etc.) in covered containers, and posting warning signs to limit access to the work area. Care should be taken to keep the waste away from children and pets.

There are two options for the disposal of residential LBP waste. All waste should be stored in appropriate containers and kept until a household hazardous waste collection day is held in your area. To find out the dates of these events, call the DES Household Hazardous Waste Coordinator at (603) 271-2047. The other option is to dispose it at a solid waste landfill that accepts LBP waste; call DES at (603) 271-2925 for locations in state that accept LBP waste.

Public and Commercial Buildings

LBP wastes generated from non-residential public or commercial buildings are considered fully regulated hazardous waste under the New Hampshire *Hazardous Waste Rules* (Env-Wm 100-1000). If the generator is unsure whether or not the paint is lead-bearing, a laboratory can make this determination.

If the paint waste is determined to be haz-

ardous, it must be handled and disposed of in accordance with the *Hazardous Waste Rules*.

If it is determined that the paint waste is not hazardous, it may be handled as a solid waste, and must be managed under the New Hampshire *Solid Waste Rules* (Env-Wm 100-300 and 2100-7300). If the paint waste is non-hazardous, the disposal options listed above for household and residential wastes are applicable.

For more information, visit www.des.nh.gov/factsheets/hw/hw-22.htm.

P2 Product Review: The Speedheater

Infrared Heat Aids in Paint Removal

Dangerous chemicals are often used in paint removal. But there are effective alternatives to these chemicals that increase worker safety and save money. The Speedheater is one such alternative. The Speedheater is a tool for removing paint from exterior facades, windows, furniture and other forms of carpentry. Unlike other paint removing methods, the Speedheater uses infrared heat to soften paint, allowing the user to easily scrape off the paint, causing less damage to the wood surface and making cleanup easier. You are left with a dry and easily disposable substance.

If your paint is suspected to contain lead, please dispose of all paint chips properly (see accompanying article).

For more information on the Speedheater, visit www.fasadtechnik.com/english/index.php.

The Department of Environmental Services does not endorse this product, but offers it as a P2 alternative product.

Painting a Healthier Planet

Household P2 Tips for Paint



An average of two gallons of household paint is sold for each person in the United States each year. Unfortunately, a lot of this paint ends up in landfills. You can help reduce the amount sent to New Hampshire landfills by following these simple steps.

- Buy only the paint you need.
- Use up all your paint.
- Store paint so it lasts.
- Donate leftover paint to the community.
- Recycle your unused paint.

Tips for storing paint so it lasts

Did you know that when paint is properly stored, it can last for years?

- Cover the opening with plastic wrap and replace the lid; make sure the lid fits securely so the paint doesn't leak.
- Store the paint can upside down. The paint will create a tight seal around the lid, keeping the paint fresh until you need it again.

- Store the paint where it won't freeze over the winter.

Disposing of unused paint when all else fails

- Air dry leftover latex-based paint and discard it in your trash. Make sure you do this away from children and pets. One method is to mix the liquid paint with some shredded newspaper and let it dry. Then toss it out with your regular trash.
- Air-drying liquid solvent-based paint is generally not recommended, but if the paint has already solidified in a closed can, you can dispose of it in your regular trash.
- Liquid solvent-based paint should not be discarded with the normal trash. Instead, save it for a special paint collection program or a household hazardous waste program in your community.

Contact the DES Household Hazardous Waste Coordinator at (603) 271-2047 or your town office for details on scheduled events.

Info on Mercury-free HVAC & Building Equipment Available from INFORM

INFORM Inc. is an independent research organization that examines the effects of business practices on the environment and on human health. The organization's goal is to identify ways of doing business that ensure environmentally sustainable economic growth. INFORM's reports are used by government, industry, and environmental leaders around the world.

As part of their Purchasing for Pollution Prevention program, INFORM has posted a fact sheet on their web site covering the availability of mercury-free HVAC and building equipment, including controls, boilers, fire

suppression systems, security systems, and water flow systems. The fact sheet also lists contact information for numerous manufacturers of these mercury-free systems and their parts.



The fact sheet can be found by visiting www.informinc.org/fact_P3hvac.php and is available in PDF and HTML formats. DES does not endorse using this fact sheet, but offers it to businesses for informational purposes.

Interstate Mercury Education & Reduction Clearinghouse

Starting in 1999, Northeast and other states began to actively pursue passage of legislation focused on reducing mercury in products and waste. In the Northeast, these efforts focused on enactment of provisions of the Mercury Education and Reduction Model Legislation developed by the Northeast states with the assistance of the Northeast Waste Management Officials Association (NEWMOA). Copies of the model legislation are available at www.newmoa.org/prevention/mercury/final_model_legislation.htm.

In 2001, NEWMOA launched the Interstate Mercury Education and Reduction Clearinghouse (IMERC) to provide ongoing technical and programmatic assistance to states that have enacted provisions of the Mercury Education and Reduction Model Legislation, and to serve as a single point of contact for industry and the public for information on mercury-added products and member states' mercury education and reduction programs.

IMERC's Activities

IMERC coordinates deliberations and provides advice and assistance to the member states to facilitate decision-making. IMERC's activities include:

- Collecting and managing data submitted by manufacturers on mercury-added products, as necessary to implement the notification provisions of state mercury reduction legislation.
- Facilitating interstate collaboration on the development and implementation of public education and outreach programs on mercury-added products.
- Making information on mercury-added products available to industry and the public.
- Responding to public requests for information on mercury-added products, and state-specific requirements for mercury-added products.
- Providing technical assistance, facilitating reviews, and making recommendations to the member states concerning manufacturers' applications for exemptions to the phase-out of mercury-added products; manufacturers' applications for alternative labeling of mercury-added products; and manufacturers' plans for collection and proper waste management of mercury-containing materials.

IMERC's Structure

IMERC's membership includes NEWMOA and non-NEWMOA member state government agencies. The state members include Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington. All IMERC-member states have a vote on the recommendations made by the Clearinghouse to the states. All state representatives to IMERC are appointed by the responsible state agency commissioner/director. NEWMOA's staff provides logistical and technical support for the activities of IMERC.

For more information, visit www.newmoa.org/prevention/mercury/imerc.cfm.

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The New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program is a free, confidential, non-regulatory, technical and compliance assistance program for New Hampshire businesses, municipalities and others. The NHPPP maintains an information clearinghouse, conducts on-site pollution prevention opportunity assessments, provides pollution prevention planning assistance, and organizes conferences and workshops.



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What is Product Stewardship?

Reprinted in part from the Product Stewardship Institute website.



Product Stewardship is a principle that addresses the need for industry, government, and consumers to promote the development and use of consumer products that pose increasingly fewer health and environmental impacts. The objective of product stewardship is to encourage manufacturers to redesign products with fewer toxics, and to make them more durable, reusable, and recyclable, and with recycled materials. Since waste disposal impacts and associated costs have been the basis for engaging manufacturers, attention has initially focused on waste management prob-

lems and solutions. However, the challenge of product stewardship is to move beyond disposal to facilitate a paradigm shift toward “zero waste” and sustainable production.

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) operates a government listserv, and is currently coordinating over 20 states in a national dialogue with the electronics industry, environmental groups, and other participants. The Institute currently provides dialogue on paint. PSI is also considering starting dialogues on additional product

categories, such as mercury-containing products, pesticides, radioactive materials, and tires. The goal of these dialogues is to maximize the collection, reuse, and recycling of used consumer products, while providing incentives to redesign products so they use fewer materials, are more reusable and recyclable, and are made with fewer toxic materials and more recycled content.

To learn more about the Product Steward Institute, go to www.productstewardship-institute.org.

New Guide for NPS Pollution Available

The DES Watershed Assistance Section announces the release of the new, 64-page edition of “Best Management Practice to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution: A Guide for Citizens and Town Officials.”

The free guide can help New Hampshire individuals, businesses, volunteer groups and town officials learn more about the causes of water pollution; how they can help improve New Hampshire’s water quality; and what laws protect our waters. Although there have been great advances in reducing pollution from industrial discharges and sewage treatment plants in the last 25 years, about half the water quality problems nationwide are now associated with nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. Characterized as polluted runoff from the land, NPS pollution can include toxic fluids from the normal use of cars and trucks, soil erosion from a construction site, or fertilizers from a farm or backyard.

For free copies, contact Barbara McMillan, DES Watershed Outreach Coordinator at: (603) 271-7889 or bmcmillan@des.state.nh.us or visit www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/was/2004_npsBMP.pdf.

Save This Date
SEPTEMBER 21

P2 Conference

Holloway Commons,
UNH
Durham, NH
[www.learn.unh.edu/
pollution/](http://www.learn.unh.edu/pollution/)

The Governor’s Award for
Pollution Prevention Application

Deadline: JUNE 22

for more information go to
www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/GovAward/



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Dates to Remember

JUNE 22

The Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention Application Deadline; for more information go to www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/GovAward/

JUNE 23

"No Chemical Left Behind: How Does Your School's Chemical Management Policy Rate?" Workshop, Littleton, NH. Sponsored by NHPPP, call (603) 271-0878 for information, or go to www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/pdf/062304Workshop.pdf

SEPTEMBER 20-24

P2 Week

www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/p2week03.htm

SEPTEMBER 21

P2 Conference

Holloway Commons, UNH

Durham, NH

www.learn.unh.edu/pollution/



New Items on the NHPPP Website!

"A Series of Best Management Practices in Schools"

www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/Schools/default.asp?link=bmp

Draft Rules for Dental Amalgam

www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/dental/propRules.pdf

Management of Pharmaceutical Waste

www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/Healthcare_P2/default.asp?link=letter